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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

### THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 5, 1949

No. 14

## A.I.A. 81st CONVENTION SETS RECORD

*Michigan well represented, Harry Mead elected Fellow, O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach receive Award of Merit; Clair Ditchy reelected secretary, Gamber named on National Architectural Accrediting Board.*

Attendance at the 81st Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects in Houston, Texas broke all records, reaching more than 1,300 registered, plus many others who were not registered. Delegates from the Detroit Chapter were Charles W. Attwood, Kenneth C. Black, L. Robert Blakeslee, Wells I. Bennett, Clair W. Ditchy, Lynn W. Fry, Branson V. Gamber, Charles D. Hannan, Alvin E. Harley, Talmage C. Hughes, Andrew R. Morison, Louis G. Redstone, Edward A. Schilling and Linn Smith.

The Grand Rapids Chapter was represented by Harry L. Mead and Robert V. Knox, the Saginaw Valley Chapter by Robert B. Frantz and James A. Spence. Ladies included Mesdames Bennett, Ditchy, Frantz, Fry, Hannan, Hughes and Spence. Other former Detroiters included Roger Bailey, Ben Dore, Frank J. Drittler, Maynard Lyndon, Buford L. Pickens, William Shinderman, Lancelot Sukert and William L. Weigle.

Bailey is now Head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Utah, Dore is with Kenneth Franzheim of Houston, Drittler (still a member of the Detroit Chapter) is in Washington, D. C. and Weigle is in Shreveport, La. Maynard Lyndon received an Award of Merit for one of his excellent houses in California. Pickens now heads of Tulane's Dept. of Architecture, Sukert is in Washington, D. C.

Harry L. Mead, of Harry L. Mead and Charles Norton, of Grand Rapids, was elevated to Fellowship in The Institute "for his unsparing and patient devotion to the betterment of the status of the architect in his region, for his years of activity in the cause of registration, for his unflagging zeal to preserve his chapter during the critical years, for the integrity of his own professional conduct."

A practicing architect since 1912 in his native Michigan, Mr. Mead served for six years as president of his Chapter and during World War II served as its Secretary-Treasurer.

The firm of O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach, of Detroit, won an Award of Merit for its Wing Lake School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in the First Honor Awards Program of The Institute.

This was one of seven such awards made for school building designs submitted from throughout the nation.

The program for the Wing Lake project called for an addition to a stone school house, built in 1886, that would embody all of the contemporary facilities for a lower elementary school and at the same time harmonize with the existing building.

A resolution of thanks was extended to Branson V. Gamber, whose term as State Association Director expired when he had completed his task and the office became extinct. Branson was named a member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board, to succeed William G. Kaelber who died on Nov. 12, 1948. His new duties have already taken him to Rice Institute, the University of Texas and the University of Notre Dame. He has the highest praise for the Board and the work it is doing.

Clair W. Ditchy of Detroit was reelected Secretary of The Institute, receiving the highest number of votes, by far, of any candidate—535 to 57 for Roy Thorshov. Unprecedented was the contest for offices. Campaigning continued at the convention and members spoke freely from the floor in favor of the various candidates. However, the so-called "conservatives" won: Ralph Walker 470, William Wurster 134;

Glenn Stanton for First Vice-President 477, Marion Manley 115; Kenneth Wischmeyer 2nd Vice-President 272, Paul Gerhardt 119; Walter W. Hook 115, Pietro Belluschi 86.

Charles Cellarius was reelected Treasurer and given an ovation for his splendid record. Arthur Holden was elected Director for the New York District; Wilbur H. Tusler, of Minneapolis, for the North Central States District.

After the election was over there was nothing but good wishes and, as the new President Walker said, it was a good sign. He expressed the hope that this spirit would continue. He particularly liked the democratic spirit and paid high tribute to Marion Manly, the only woman who has ever been a candidate for Institute office. He hoped they would try again, and they probably will, for after a meeting of the school group at the University of Houston, newspapers announced that Ernest Kump of California would be a candidate for Institute President in 1950. Never was there more interest shown in an A.I.A. election, and no one could say that the opposition was not of the highest caliber. Of 598 accredited delegates, all but one voted.

In order to clear up any possible misunderstanding, representatives of the three Michigan Chapters spoke in behalf of Clair Ditchy's candidacy, bringing out the fact that he did have Chapter endorsement from all Michigan chapters. In the A.I.A. Bulletin, only the Western Michigan Chapter was listed as having nominated him. As the Bulletin



tin went to press early, the Detroit and Saginaw Valley Chapter endorsements did not appear therein.

The seminars on the Atomic Age and on Color were excellent and attendance at the sessions filled the large rooms.

The Convention disapproved paid advertising, which is only a reiteration. The Board was given authority to increase dues as it sees fit, with a ceiling of \$50 per year. Graduated dues did not fare well.

The Annual Dinner was, of course, the highlight of the Convention. Frank Lloyd Wright was in his best form and while it was expected that he might throw a bomb shell, his wife who sat nearby kept him under control. Eying her occasionally, he would say that he was about to say something but he guessed he wouldn't. He confined his disparaging remarks, to the Shamrock Hotel, where the President's reception was held. Said he, "My reaction was that there should be a big sign erected in front of it bearing the word WHY?"

Houston (which he pronounced Hooston), he said was a capitalistic city, with skyscrapers down town, a broad highway four miles out to the Shamrock, another skyscraper, and in be-

tween the people living in the mud. About the Medal he said that he appreciated it very much but that it was a long time coming. He felt that it was a battle won, as he had been honored by just about every country on the globe. "I feel humble and grateful," he said. "I don't think humility is a very becoming state for me." Lamenting the copying of precedent, he said that it was a great pity that the Greeks did not have steel and glass, for then we would not have to do any thinking, even now.

Ed Kemper was missed but a telegram of felicitation was received from him. A resolution was passed requesting the Board to establish an Edward C. Kemper award for students to do research.

The Convention also requested the Board to investigate the registration laws of the various states and try to bring them into unity, also to see how the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards could help in this respect.

James G. Chain, of Alabama Polytechnic Institute spoke on behalf of the students, of whom there were over 100 present. There appeared to be a decided increase in interest toward students on the part of the Institute.

A resolution of thanks went to the retiring officers, including President Orr, Directors Paul Gerhardt and Branson Gamber.

The 1950 convention will be held in Washington, D.C., at the Mayflower Hotel, May 10-15; 1951 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, and 1952 in New York City (Waldorf-Astoria preferred), with a post-convention cruise to Bermuda.

The post-convention tour to Mexico was all that could be hoped for. John Smith and Sid Nyhus deserve the thanks of all participants for the splendid way they managed this enjoyable affair. More about this in the National Architect.

## APELSCOR ELECTS

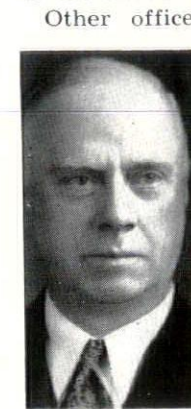
The Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyor's Committee on Registration chose Howard P. Seelye of the Detroit Edison Company as its new chairman at a meeting held in the Rackham Building, Detroit, recently. Mr. Seelye represents the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on APELSCOR.

John J. Uicker of the University of Detroit, representing the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was elected secretary.

Retiring chairman George W. Francis of Saginaw was given a standing vote of thanks by all members present for his distinguished leadership as chairman of APELSCOR for the past ten years. Mr. Francis will continue to represent the Michigan Engineering Society on the committee. McGrew and Leinweber represent the MSA; Marr and McConkey, alternates.

## MacKENZIE HEADS S, H & G

Wallace S. MacKenzie has been elected President-Treasurer of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, Inc., Architects and Engineers, of Detroit, it is announced by the firm's Board of Directors.



Other officers are Amedeo Leone, AIA, Vice-President and Secretary; Joseph W. Leinweber, AIA, Vice-President, and Leo J. Hosman, AIA, Member of the Board of Directors. Mr. MacKenzie, formerly Vice-President, succeeds H. L. Walton, retired. Mr. MacKenzie has been with the firm for 35 years. Mr. Leinweber has served as officer of the Detroit Chapter, AIA, and is now Secretary of the Michigan Society of Architects.

The firm reports architectural and engineering contracts for work in progress that now exceeds \$135,000,000.

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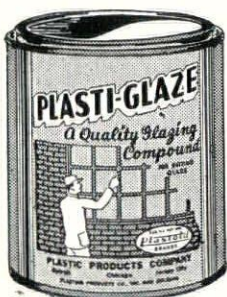
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## F. GORDON PICKELL

F. Gordon Pickell, A.I.A., of 5545 Second Boulevard, Detroit, died in St. Mary's Hospital in Palm Beach, Florida on March 27. He was 68 years of age.

Gordon Pickell was born in Jackson, Michigan on February 3, 1881. There he received his early education. Continuing to study at home, he was a self-made man. He traveled and studied in Europe on five different occasions. He learned the stone-cutting trade, worked at social problems as a hobby. His interests went beyond architecture and included city planning, housing and many other activities, when few were thinking of such problems.

He entered his own practice in Detroit in 1913 and was instrumental in organizing the Michigan Society of Architects. At its organization meeting held on May 28, 1914, he was named president. The organization was then called the Architects Business Association of Michigan, and its purposes stated as "to promote the business interests and efficiency of the architects of Michigan."

The Society's first convention was held in Ann Arbor, the second in Detroit on February 2, 1915. A press release of that time stated that "ways and means to uphold this law and the many benefits to be derived therefrom will be one of the most important topics for the consideration of the convention." Reference was to the architects registration law which the Society was able to obtain.

In recent years Gordon had been retired but he never lost interest in architecture. He was a member of The American Institute of Architects and its Detroit Chapter, a regular attendant at Chapter meetings. Just recently he had offered his resignation, in view of his retirement, and steps had been taken to make him a member emeritus, in recognition of his contributions to the profession. However, before this could be consummated word was received of his untimely death. He was also a member of The Engineering Society of Detroit and the Detroit Yacht Club.

He was a close friend of Louis Sullivan and of Charles Harris Whitaker, trustee of the Frederick F. Ingram Taxation Trust.

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## ARCHITECTONICS

**THE STATE CONVENTION OF THE M.S.A.** held at Detroit on March 3rd and 4th, was a memorable affair. The Architect's Exhibit at the Detroit Art Gallery alone was worth far more than the effort required to get to Detroit and represented months of hard work on the part of the Show Committee, who deserves the thanks of the whole profession in Michigan for the finest show we have ever put on. The public response was excellent.

**THE BANQUET** was really a thing. This cooperative effort of the State Architects, the Producers' Council and the Builders and Traders Exchange turned out to be the best attended of all time—believe it or not, 1,037 tickets to that banquet were sold and apparently everyone who had a ticket came. Governor Williams was the speaker.

**WHY DON'T MORE MEMBERS** of the Western Michigan Chapter go to state conventions? Are we so much brighter than the other lads that we don't need to attend seminars? Six will get you five we ain't. And yet year after year the attendance, proportionately, of members of this chapter at state conventions is very low indeed. Do not give out with that "busy at the office" routine. The ones who do attend are just as busy—busier, mostly—than the ones who don't. It is about time we took our hair down and discussed this matter freely. Nobody can help his profession advance by staying home to mastermind by remote control.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CHAPTER** is going to be something! First, the meal will be with the compliments (free) of the Associated Materials Supply Company of Grand Rapids, Mike VanderLentz, Manager. Mike has

a new type of aluminum sash that he wants us to see but he's promised that he won't take too much time for promotion. Second, we're having as our guests and for you to get acquainted with, some of the state officials with whom you come in contact on your various jobs; Arnold Renner, State Fire Marshal; "Bill" Clapp from the Department of Public Instruction (school planning); Wayne Colby, Chief Engineer for the Department of Aeronautics (airport planning) and others. Third, we'll have reports from your delegates to the State and National Conventions that were just held.—Roger Allen.

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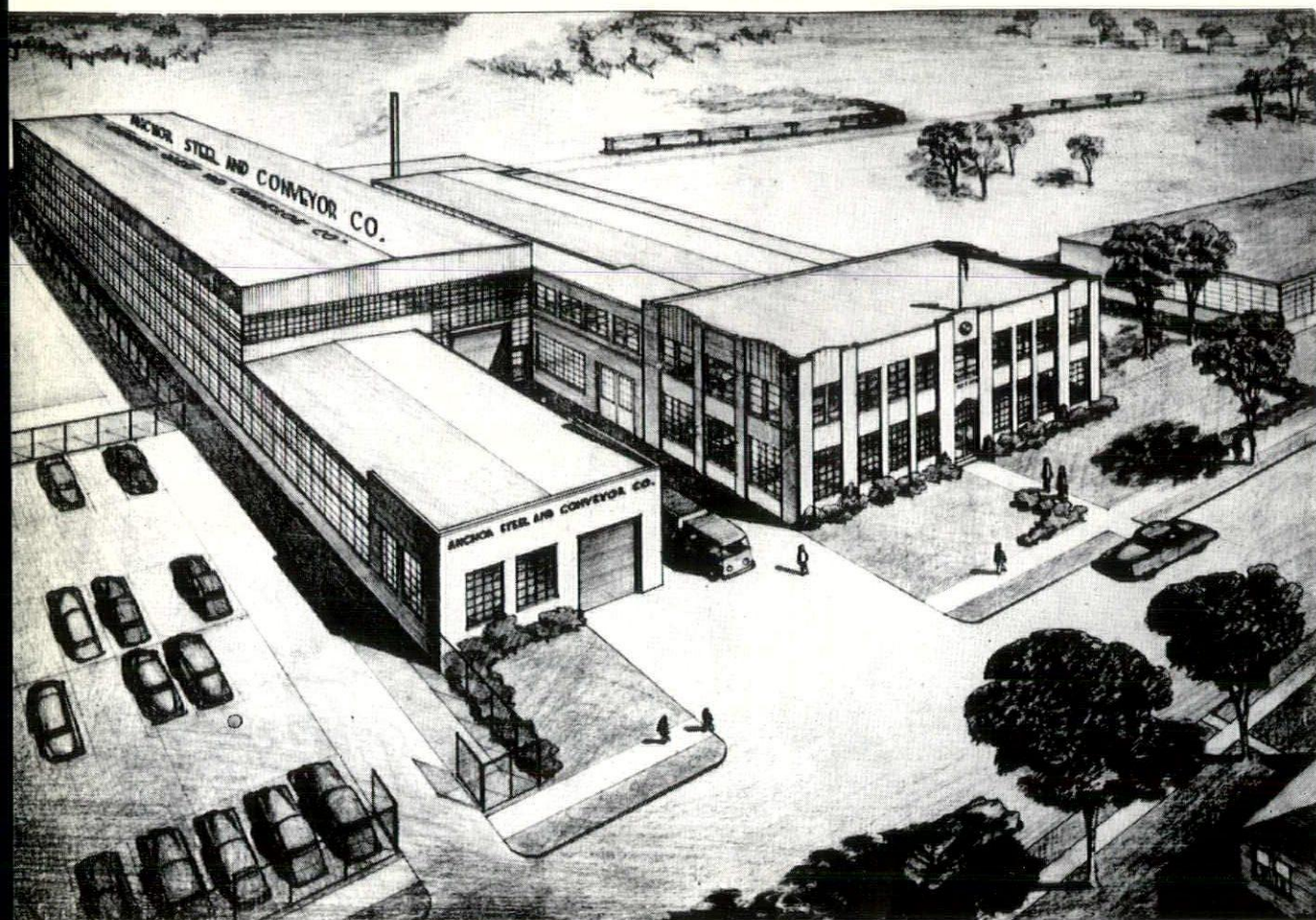


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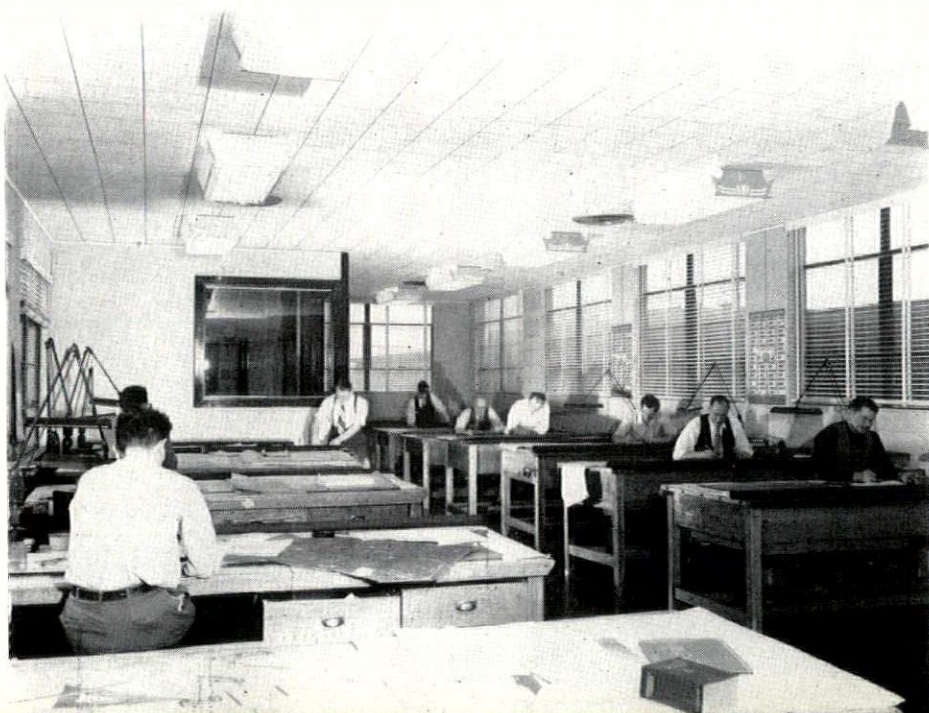
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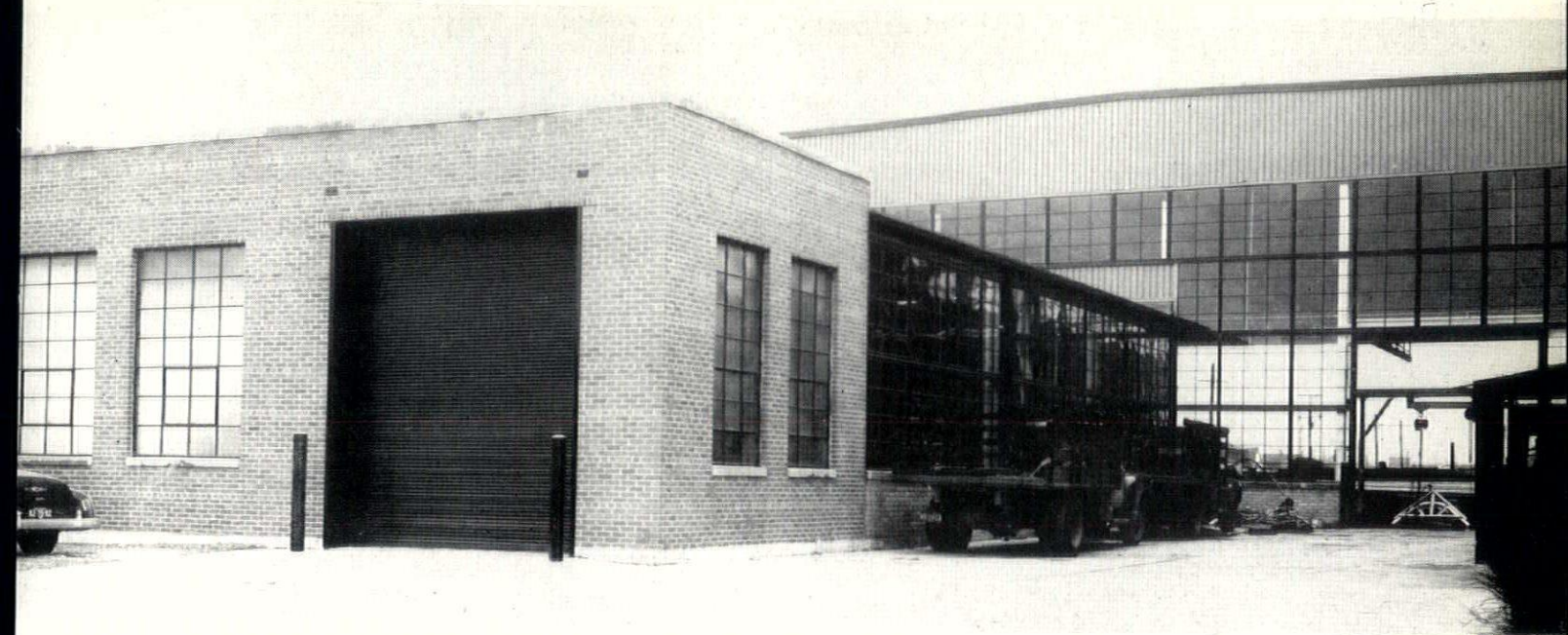
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The recently completed offices and plant for Anchor Steel & Conveyor Company, 6906 Kingsley Avenue, Dearborn, Michigan, represents another step in the company expansion program.

The new steel warehouse, machine storage and drafting room buildings were incorporated with the processing and office building originally on the site. The complete remodeling of the older buildings was necessary to conform to the heavier manufacturing and fabrication methods required in the manufacture of conveyors and highly specialized material-handling systems. The installation of new crane ways, heavy equipment foundations, process wiring and piping plus plant personnel toilet facilities were part of this re-vamping program.

Additional processing areas of approximately 16,000 square feet were incorporated in the new buildings. Design of these new structures was structural steel columns and trusses with metal roof decking. The free span trusses were 70 ft. long with a floor clearance of 26 ft. Crane-ways and material handling conveyors were integral with the structural steel.

All exterior walls of manufacturing buildings are of brick and continuous steel sash. The model drafting room included dark room facilities, air conditioning and special lighting.

Rail facilities were brought directly into the new buildings for ease in handling materials.

The modernizing of old facilities required new main office changes for added personnel, plus structural and mechanical changes necessitated by installation of heavy fabricating equipment and crane-ways.

The long range planning and building design is such that additional manufacturing areas may be added with no curtailment of manufacturing operation during construction of new units.



## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

*Memorandum to the members of the Committee on Education and Research of the Michigan Society of Architects, by Ralph W. Hammett, Chairman.*

*Subject: Meeting of Committee on March 3rd, 1949, Statler Hotel, Detroit. Noon Luncheon.*

Those present were Messrs. Bauer, Kressbach, Langius and Hammett; also attending were Tal Hughes, Alden Dow and Neal Gabler. Walter Taylor, A.I.A. Director of the Division of Education and Research was invited but was unable to attend; also the chairmen of the three comparable committees of Michigan chapters were invited, but as they were unable to attend Dow spoke for the Saginaw Valley Chapter, Kressbach for the Western Michigan Chapter and Hammett for the Detroit Chapter.

The chairman outlined the work of the committee as being a job of coordination of the work of the three committees of the State Chapters and called for general reports of the work of each chapter in this field.

1. For the Detroit Chapter he reported on a meeting called by Earl Pellerin and attended by student chapter representatives who are members of the Detroit committee. (a) Plans are being made for a May meeting (May 18) at Dearborn Inn to be attended by the Detroit Chapter and by the U. of Michigan Student Chapter, also Univ. of Detroit, and Lawrence Institute. (b) A refresher course for men preparing for the State Board Examinations in June

is to be given by Pellerin, Paul Brown and Hammett. This course is being repeated for the third time. (c) Messrs. Blakeslee and Pellerin, representing the Detroit Chapter attended the annual Vocational Guidance Day in Detroit and talked to the interested high school students. (d) This committee helped to stage the current show.

2. For the Western Michigan Chapter, Kressbach reported that Wm. Stone of Kalamazoo is chairman of their committee and has been pointing the programs of each chapter meeting, in whole or part, to discussions of actual practice problems. He reports that their meetings have been very interesting and of definite educational value to the members.

3. For the Saginaw Chapter, Dow reported for its chairman, Pete Brysselbout, and said that they also take up technical subjects and have round table discussions at each meeting. Their meetings are well attended and of interest to members.

4. The question was then put by the chairman, "What can the State Committee do to further help this work along in the local as well as state levels?" The following decisions were made:

a. Alden Dow said that an educational movie had been proposed by the Saginaw Valley Chapter, and it was decided to give support to this project if the committee is called upon to do so by the Saginaw Valley Chapter.

b. Whenever a chapter has a good meeting (which should be every meeting) that a member of the chapter be designated to report it to the Weekly Bulletin. Such reports should be more than merely reporting news items; i.e. summaries should be given of the discussions and any information of technical and educational value should be written up. In short, the chapters should encourage the presentation of technical papers and see to it that said papers be given to the profession of the state through the medium of our Bulletin.

c. Pamphlets on the value of the architect to the public were shown by Kressbach and turned over to Leo Bauer to see what it would cost to put out several thousand such pamphlets in this state. The value of such a pamphlet was deemed very much worthwhile and Tal Hughes reported that architects throughout the state have often asked if one cannot be composed and printed. Tal showed one that was put out by the Society about ten years ago, and stated that the pamphlet had not met with too much enthusiasm. Bauer thought that it needed a new and better job, so he was assigned the task of seeing what can be done and reporting at the next meeting of the committee.

## "EARNED INCOME TAX ADJUSTMENT FOR 1949"

Branson V. Gamber, just returned from the Houston Convention of The A.I.A., calls attention to a bill in Washington known as HR 3224 and entitled "Earned Income Tax Adjustment for 1949." Louis Justement is Chairman of a Committee on this matter and it was discussed at the Convention and approved. Some publicity has been given it in Institute publications recently.

The gist of it is that it provides for a measure of relief for architects and other professionals whose incomes are subject to considerable fluctuation. One might have a good year and pay a sizable tax, then sustain a loss the following year, for which he receives no credit. Moreover, there is no provision for retirement relief as is the case in some employee groups.

The bill provides that architects may invest a certain amount of their savings in Government bonds on which there would be no tax. These bonds pay 2% interest. Then if a lean year follows he may sell some or all of the bonds and declare it as income.

The Institute recommends that members write their senators and congressmen asking their support of the bill. The bill is backed by the other professions, such as medical, legal, engineering, etc.

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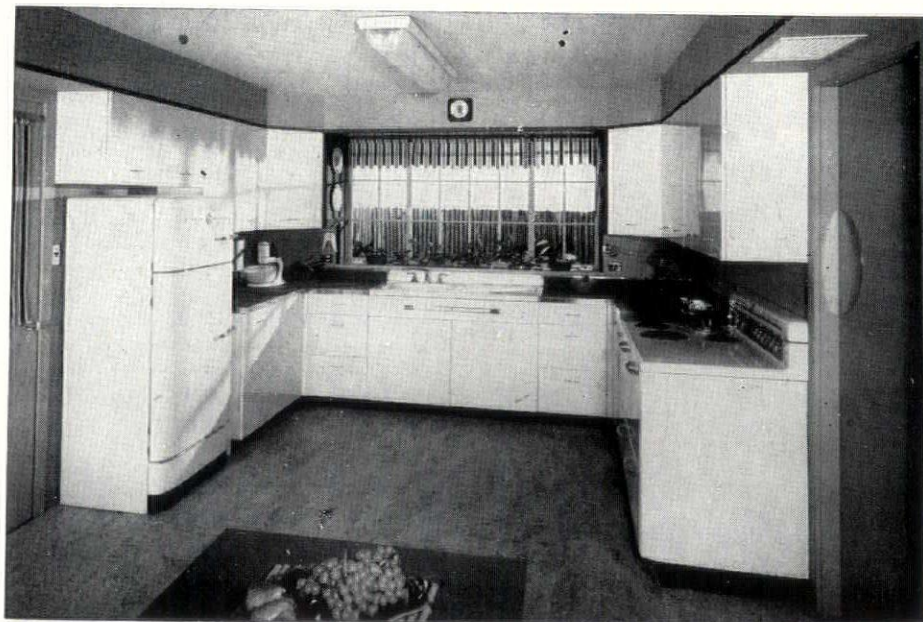
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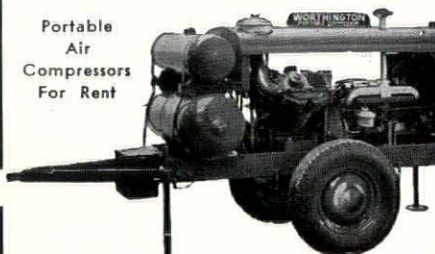
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Edited by  
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### FIFTEEN DAY NOTICE

Since 1929 under Michigan Law it has been necessary for contractors and material suppliers to serve on owners a "fifteen day notice" in order to have a lien on the job. Unless such persons have a direct contract with the owner, they must serve the "fifteen day notice" on owners of record within fifteen days after furnishing the first material or labor to the job.

The official name for the notice is "Notice of Intention to Claim a Lien Under Act 264 Public Acts 1929." The language of the notice must be that given in the act. The notice informs the owner that the person serving it is furnishing (such and such) and will claim a lien. It notifies the owner that he may retain from any moneys due the direct contractor an amount sufficient to pay all demands owing or unpaid to any sub-contractor, material man or laborer who serves notice on him. It says farther, "the original contractor shall, whenever any payment of money shall become due from you, or whenever he desires to draw any money from you on such contract, make out and give to you or your agent a statement under oath of the number and names of every sub-contractor or laborer in his employ, and of every person furnishing materials, giving the amount, if anything, which is due or to become due to them, or any of them, for work done or material furnished, and you may retain out of any money then due, or to become due to the contractor, an amount sufficient to pay all demands that are due or to become due to such sub-contractors, laborers and materialmen, as shown by the contractor's statement, and pay the same to them according to their respective rights, and all payments so made shall, as between you and such contractor, be considered the same as if paid to such original contractor."

The purpose of this 1929 amendment to Michigan's Lien Law is protection of the owner, especially of the home owner. It puts the owner on his guard. Very few have ever questioned the fact that the notice is really valuable protection to the owner, and that fact is not being questioned now.

It is a good and necessary protection for the owner, but a clumsy, expensive, annoying way to accomplish the result. In order to serve such notice, the server must find the exact legal description of the property, the names of all owners of record, and must serve personally with proof of serving or by registered mail return receipt demanded, and must keep proof of serving the exact notice. This is a nuisance, but that is

not all.

Since the start of doing this in 1929, the use of the notice has been less and less because very many direct contractors resent having the notice served on their owner. Consequently as of today, most sub-contractors and many material men forego their right to lien by omitting the notice. And omission of serving this notice is fatal to ones lien right.

The Builders' and Traders' Exchange of Detroit is at present trying to get this "fifteen day notice" requirement of the law amended so that omission of serving it within fifteen days after one furnishes his first material or labor will not be fatal to his lien right.

We are trying to get it amended so that a supplier, subcontractor or laborer can serve this "fifteen day notice" any time during the job and by doing so preserve his lien right for any materials or labor supplied after fifteen days prior to his serving the notice.

This does not cure everything, but it does afford more protection for subs and material men without taking anything important away from the security afforded the owner.

A bill has been drawn, and may have been introduced before this appears in print. If it has not been introduced before this appears, it probably will not be introduced this session.

Some erroneous ideas about this proposed amendment have cropped out. One receiving some circulation is that our proposed amendment would allow placing a mortgage on the property which would have priority to the lien rights of anyone filing a lien.

A mortgage recorded against a property before the construction (improvement) job is started has priority over a lien. This has been so since 1891. A lien on a property has priority over any mortgage recorded after the start of the job, and the lien does not have to be filed until before the sixteenth day after you furnish the last labor or materials. The "fifteen day notice" as it is now or as it would be by our proposed amendment has no bearing on priority of mortgages.

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 12, 1949

No. 15

## ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENT

A TALK BY ALOYS FRANK HERMAN, A.I.A. AT MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS  
CONVENTION, HOTEL STATLER, MARCH 3, 1949

I feel indeed stupid speaking to this group about something in which each and every one of you is well versed, something that you are as well qualified to talk upon as am I. However, since this task has been given me, I shall carry on in the hope that you will bear with me as I go through this old chatter, and maybe, who knows, we shall all get something from it.

Now then, as for the Architect's responsibility to his client. We as Architects all want to be very proficient, we certainly should be and we all hope that we are. This contemplates a great deal. To be an Architect we are supposed to be designers, planners, are we? Or as designers are we only a high type of draftsman? We should be thoroughly educated, both architecturally and broadly, are we? Do we know anything about specifications, details? Do we have sufficient respect for the engineering professions, structural, mechanical, civil, electrical? It is not supposed that we are well qualified in these callings, but we should know sufficiently concerning them, so as to have respect for them and engage them. Are we understanding of our clients, patient with them? Do we have any personality at all, or do we show the disposition of a rattlesnake, scrapping with every one and giving our client the best battle of them all. Do we know anything at all of business management since as an Architect we are a sort of trustee of very sizeable funds.

I mention all of these points because I feel deeply that regardless of the degrees we may hold or of the fact that we may have passed an Architect's examination, we may not consider ourselves good architects unless we are able to satisfactorily fill this big bill either by ourselves or through those associates we may have with us.

The first thing to bring up in our approach to the client. In the first place in our early talk to a prospective client are we always fair and sportsmanlike to our fellow architect? Have you noticed that when you mention the

name of a physician to another the usual response is, "Oh yes, Dr. Jones is a very capable man" or "I am sorry but I don't know Dr. Jones." I yet have to hear one physician say anything, but that his fellow practitioner is tip-top in every respect, unless he mentions that he does not know him. I think we might learn a great deal in that phase of our life and could raise the entire respect due our profession if when we were asked "What do we know concerning Smith, Jones or White," we might say that we know nothing of them or that we find each one to be very good in his profession. Be positive about the whole thing, positive in your respect for them or positive in your not knowing them. Here is one place that we have much to learn.

Secondly; when asked by our prospective client about our ability, let us be candid about it; I think we owe it to them. If he comes to us with a problem that we have never seen before, be frank about it and state our ability (or lack of it). I think we will be more respected for it, and it will certainly make for a much more satisfactory relationship if we do just that.

When questioned about our staff, tell them the facts, if it is not large tell them. Do not tell him that such and such an engineer is an employee, when he is a professional entity whose services we may engage just as other architects may do.

And another phase of client relationship and a very important one is, costs. Say for arguments sake, a group of young men come to you, veterans of World War II, they want to build a hall, an elaborate scheme, with dining room, gymnasium, ball room and all that sort of thing. When a few questions from you will reveal that their funds are very limited, tell them frankly that they had better look into financing first. Certainly you may talk yourself out of a fee for a set of drawings, but if their wants are far in excess of what they will ever be able to purchase, I think they should be told just that. According to acceptable thinking we should not take a fee from these folks when we know there is no chance of their ever being able to complete their project.

Another important thing. As architects we have tools of operation, and our tools of operation are drawings and specifications. Drawings and specifications have to be good sound documents. When these drawings and specifications are prepared they must be done, so that a person can build from them. Are they going to be drawings of such a caliber as to leave much to the imagination of the poor chap who has to construct the job from them? Contractors and their tradesmen have a task to carry out, and our task is to give them the explicit information with which to do it, since they are usually not mind readers, so, let us make our



drawings and specifications of the size, the kind and the quality that will be of benefit to those using them.

These things seem simple, but gentlemen, a lot of times they are permitted to run wild.

And again, the client comes to us with a statement of his problem, very frequently we learn much from the client and profit from his ideas. We in turn solve his problem and give him, which to our way of thinking, is a good set of drawings and specifications from which to complete the construction of his building, we explain to him what the documents contemplate and what he is going to get. Very frequently I feel that we should go a point farther and not only clearly and painstakingly tell him what he is going to get, but also what he is not going to get. In other words if he contemplates a gymnasium tell him that he will or will not

get a swimming pool. If he contemplates a church tell him that such things as altars and pews are, or are not included.

I do not believe that anyone deliberately goes out to mislead a client or take advantage of him, however the problem of what is, or is not included in the building should be thoroughly understood and explained even to the point of monotony, it will be to your credit if these things are made clear, and we will certainly be better architects in our clients eyes.

If we do all of these things we will be better Architects and will consequently be appreciated. We resent and object to the contractor who provides drawings along with his construction service. We may have registration laws, regulations and everything in the world to overcome him, but the best way to solve this disturbing problem is to be thoroughly versed in our profession and know our job so very exceedingly well that it is to the client's advantage to engage us rather than not.

### CANAVAN HEADS PRODUCERS

Richard J. Canavan, architectural engineer, has been appointed technical secretary of the Producers' Council, Inc., national organization of building products manufacturers, Charles M. Mortensen, the Council's executive secretary has announced.

Mr. Canavan, who is a graduate of Iowa State College, formerly was District Manager in Atlanta for the Ingersoll Utility Division of the Borg Warner Corp.

In his new position, he will aid the development of the Council's technical program, with special emphasis on promotion of modular coordination, development of a film library for architectural students, and encouragement of building code modernization.

Mr. Canavan served for two years with the Navy Seabees during World War II.

ERIC MENDELSON, AIA, distinguished architect of San Francisco, has been commissioned to design the new Temple Emanuel to be erected in Grand Rapids. This will be the first example of his work in Michigan.

Mendelsohn is now lecturer in the Graduate School of Design, School of Architecture, University of California at Berkeley. The late Albert Kahn once said that Mendelsohn "occupies in architecture the place Thomas Mann does in literature and Albert Einstein in the sciences."

**HENRY F. STANTON, FAIA** has been appointed architect for the new 200-bed hospital to be built at Southfield and Oakwood Roads, it has been announced by Mr. Donald B. McLouth, president of the Oakwood Hospital Board. Land-clearing operations on the 35-acre site that was given to the hospital by the Ford Motor Company will begin soon.

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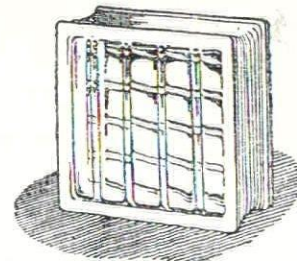
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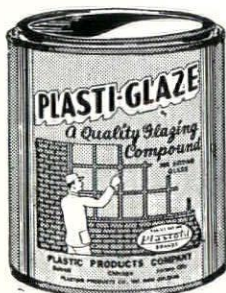
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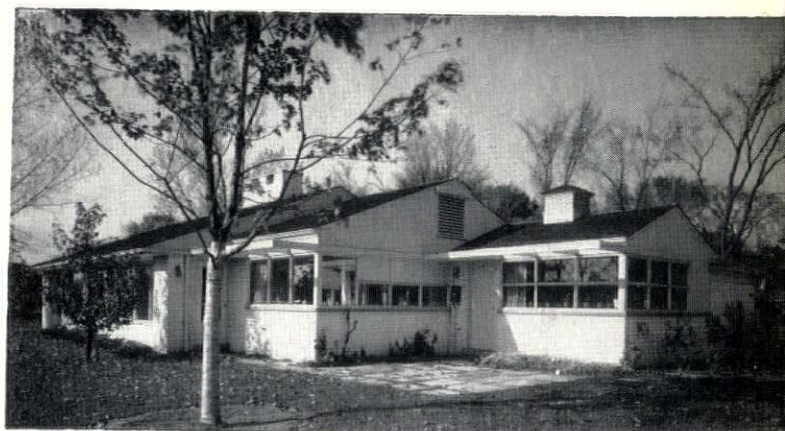




*Front Elevation — View from Golf Club Grounds*



*Rear — Girl's Bed Room and Living-Dining Room*



*Rear — Kitchen and Solarium Corner*

## DESIGNED FOR SPACIOUS INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan R. Bird adjoins Club House Grounds of Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Michigan

By IRVING E. PALMQUIST, A.I.A.

The problem of achieving the design and living scheme of a long, low, rambling, ranch style house on one or two confined city lots will always tax the ingenuity of the designer. Without a view in any direction it becomes necessary to create pleasant surroundings with planting and garden treatment, especially when large glass areas are requested. The development of the plan requires the complete study of the plot to make a successful combination of spacious indoor-outdoor living and to produce the vista lacking in city lot surroundings.

The Bird residence was planned with such requirements to fit two fifty foot city lots adjoining the club house grounds of the Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak, Michigan. Privacy was accomplished by arranging the garage, service rooms, entrance and lesser rooms on the street side. The living room, dining, kitchen and bed rooms look out through large Thermopane windows onto a pleasant, well screened play area and garden.

A no-basement requirement necessitated a radiant heating system using air as the heat transmitting medium. Hollow Flexicore concrete slabs were used

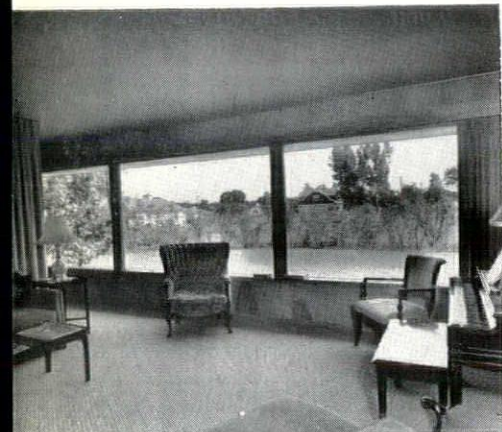
for the floor system to transmit the warm air from supply trenches to the return trenches. The floor panel heating is controlled in six zones with thermostats for each zone and an outside anticipating thermostat. A mechanical ventilating system was used to furnish the ventilating necessary with the use of Thermopane sealed windows throughout the house. The heating and ventilating system operate completely automatic.

The owner's love of natural wood finishes for the interior called for the use of wood paneling in most of the rooms.

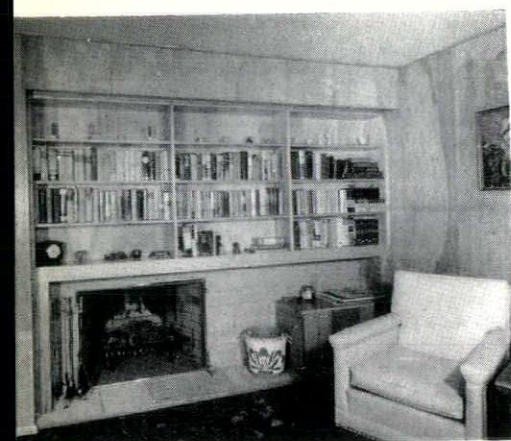




Living Room Fireplace Wall

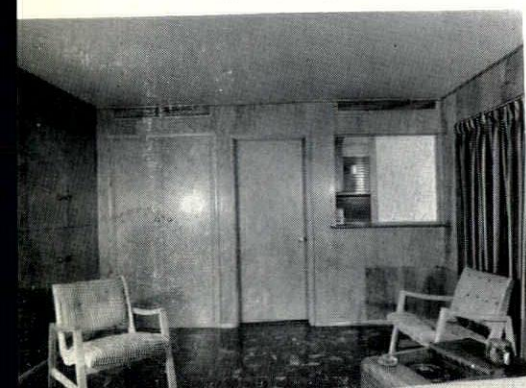


Living Room to Rear Garden



Above: Activity Room Fireplace

Below: Activity Room—Serving Bar at Right



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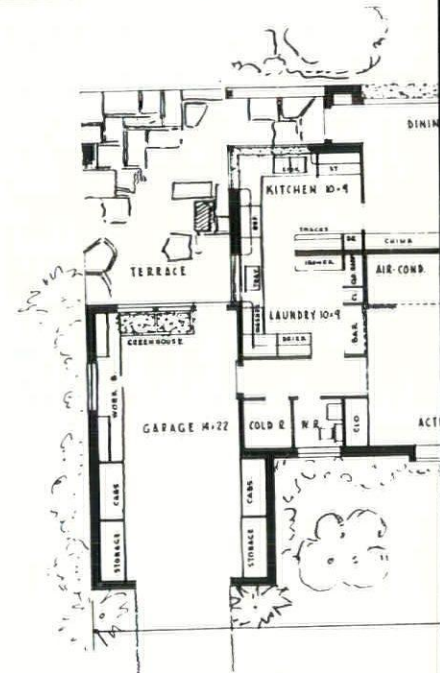
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Built-in wardrobes, storage closets, furniture and equipment conserve floor space and add interest in each room.

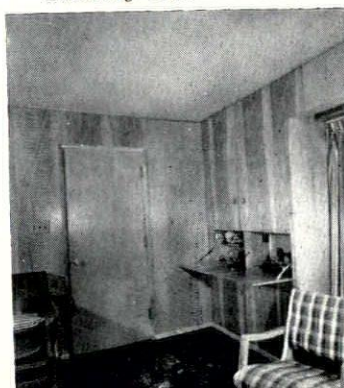
The kitchen and laundry are combined in one streamlined room with automatic washing and drying equipment in the laundry. A snack bar separates the two spaces. Counter tops are lighted by a strip of Thermopane glass between the counter tops and the upper cabinets which have louvre sliding glass doors. The kitchen is equipped with dishwasher and garbage disposal in addition to electric range and refrigerator. A well insulated cold room adjoins the kitchen for food storage and deep freeze equipment.

The dining and living room are treated as one large room with provision for separation by a full length ceiling-hung draw-drapery. A built-in glass front china cabinet extends along one wall of the dining space, adding decorative value and convenience.



The activity room or rumpus room houses all the miscellaneous activities such as library, sewing, games, movie television, and study. Equipment, bookcases and furniture are built-in and

Activity Room — Showing Built-in Desk



Laundry — View from Kitchen





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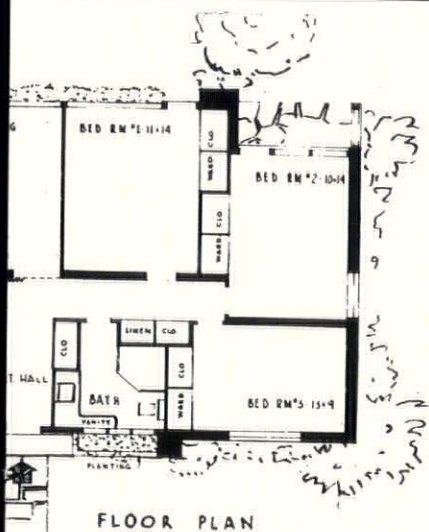
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three bed rooms are built-in. The master bed room is done in maple, finished in natural finishes. The boy's bed room is furnished and paneled with knotty pine. The girl's bed room is finished with natural finish birch and plaster. The combinations of rich wall colors, bright wall papers and natural wood treatments make this home a pleasant place to live, work and play.

The main bath room is finished with Vitrolite glass walls in a soft green tone. Lavatory and vanity are built-in with natural finished birch. The floor surface is rubber tile, matching the Vitrolite in color.

To complete the pleasing indoor-outdoor living scheme, a small green house complete with cypress potting bench and sink is furnished in the garden end of the garage, which is heated to furnish year round growing temperature and glazed with ample Thermopane windows for abundant sunlight.

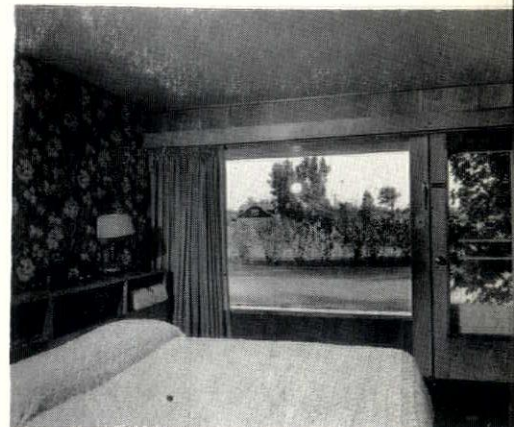
Snack Bar between  
Kitchen and Laundry

Kitchen — View from Laundry

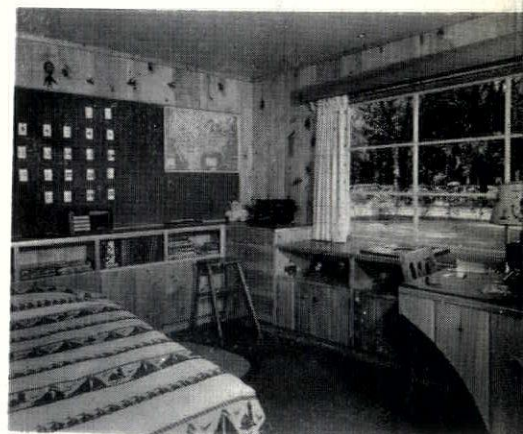
Below: Solarium and Potting Corner  
in Garage



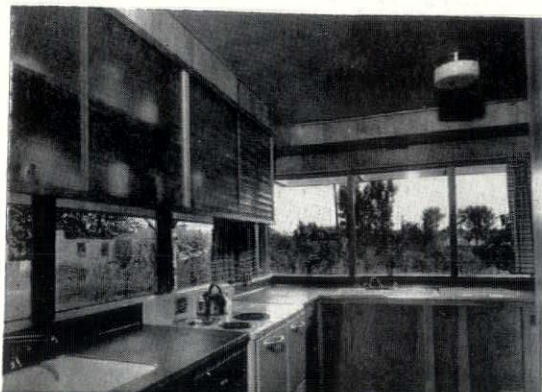
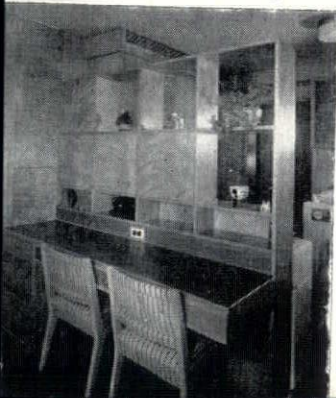
Master Bedroom



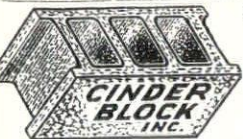
Master Bedroom — View to Rear Garden



Above: Boy's Bedroom







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## MABLEY APPOINTED

T. Hollister Mabley has been appointed vice president and general manager of Mechanical Heat & Cold, Inc., pioneer engineering contractors for heating, refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, according to a recent announcement by H. A. Shuler, president. In his new capacity, Mr. Mabley will supervise Temp-Matic Wholesalers, the firm's heating distributing organization and will also serve as treasurer of the company.

After receiving his BScE degree from the University of Michigan, Mr. Mabley was employed by the steam turbine department of General Electric Co. at Schenectady, N. Y. and later joined the Detroit distributor of GE refrigeration products. He became associated with Mechanical Heat & Cold, Inc. in 1936, serving as chief engineer and four years later became Secretary of the firm and a director.

Mr. Mabley has been president of the Indoor Climate Institute, The Industrial Ventilation Society, and a member of the board of the American Society of Heating & Ventilating Engineers, Michigan Chapter. The author of numerous technical articles, Mr. Mabley also published a book, "Twenty-Five Typical Air Conditioning Systems."

Old residents of Detroit will remember Mabley & Company, operated by Mr. Mabley's grandfather in the 1880's. It was here that the idea of the department store originated and that figures like J. L. Hudson and E. J. Hickey received early training in mercantile operation. At one time Mr. Mabley's father manufactured the Smith & Mabley Simplex automobile. It's "straight-eight" engine was placed in a boat which won the 1904 Gold Cup race and at 28 miles per hour broke the world's speed record for marine craft.

**EDWARD N. HEWITT**, member of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. expects to move to Klamath Falls, Oregon within the near future. There he will establish architectural practice in association with Murdo D. Morrison and John R. Howard, both of Birmingham, Michigan.

Mr. Hewitt will take over the practice of the late Sheldon Brumbaugh.

A native Detroiter, Hewitt graduated from Northern High School, studied at Wayne University and at the University of Michigan.

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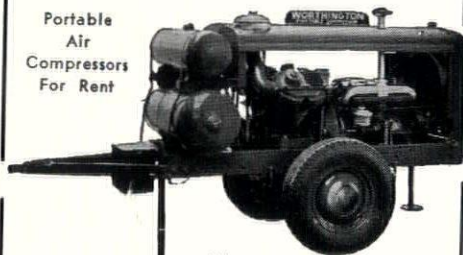
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Edited by

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**BUILDERS' and TRADERS'**  
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**THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW**

One of the favorite pastimes of us citizens of these United States is to pass a law. We see a condition which does not entirely satisfy us and our ready reaction is "get legislation." This goes for individuals and for organizations. We want laws to control the other fellow. We want laws to help build our business. We are willing to stir together economics and politics to get our way. We say stir together politics and economics because when you throw a matter of economics into law, its association from then on is with politics.

To say the least, our penchant for turning to "passing a law" is expensive. You can't delve into anything much without setting up a bureau or a board or a bunch of inspectors, and they all cost money. We talk of doing away with bureaucrats, but we continually seek to add to the list.

Let's say a state grows apples. The apple interests get a law establishing grades. A bureau is set up. Inspectors dilly into an orchard once in a while just to see how things are going. It costs public money. Chances are that the apple growers by concerted action could establish their own grades and by advertising maintain them.

But the apple people do not stop there. They obtain a law which puts the state into the business of advertising the state's apples. Nice mixture of economics and politics. The politics may come into the picture by the appointment to a nice job of chief apple advertiser.

Then they go further. The Apple growers come up with the proposition that it would help promote the health, safety and comfort of the people if apple growers and packers were licensed by the state. So they pass a license law. That creates a heck of a lot of work to be done which takes a commissioner, some good subordinates, and a large office filled with files, stenographers, adding machines, telephones and what have you.

But that is not all. The apple workers decide that the steps on the step ladders are not wide enough to promote foot comfort and safety. So a law is passed regulating the width of the tread of the steps of apple pickers ladders. Pronto a force of inspectors to travel around looking up at apple pickers on apple pickers steps. Quite an expense to the taxpayers of the state.

And the "step" leads to something else. It leads to a conviction on the part of someone that the health and safety of apple pickers would be enhanced if a commission were set up to draw up

safety measures, and particularly to see to it that each ladder had an umbrella at its top to keep apple pickers from sunstroke or snow down the neck. So a commission is set up which cost the state some money and then this commission asks for an army of inspectors because the inspectors who inspect ladder steps cannot be expected to inspect umbrellas.

The point of all this is that we dear apple men all have problems which we are sort of lazy about solving ourselves. It is much easier to say "let's pass a law."

There is not a thing in the whole program recited above which could not be done by the apple industry itself. The pickers could get together and say, "We are sick of snow down our necks and we are scared of sunstrokes so we won't pick apples unless you put an umbrella on the ladder."

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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 19, 1949

No. 16

# SOCIETY BOARD MEETING WAS IN LANSING

## MACKINAC CONFERENCE PLANNED, NEXT MEETING IN FLINT

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects met at the City Club in Lansing on Wednesday afternoon and evening, April 13. The facilities of the Club were placed at the Board's disposal through the courtesy of Adrian N. Langius. It was, therefore, doubly regrettable that Gus was unable to attend because of illness. We were at least glad to know that his ailment is not serious. Director David H. Williams, who has also been indisposed lately, was not present, nor were Wells Bennett and Charles McGrew, who had good reasons, though not illness.

Nine of the thirteen Directors who were present included Roger Allen, Leo M. Bauer, Alden B. Dow, Robert B. Frantz, Ralph W. Hammett, Carl C. F. Kressbach, Joseph W. Leinweber, John C. Thornton and Arthur J. Zimmermann. Talmage C. Hughes attended as Executive Secretary.

Written reports were received from Edward G. Rosella, Chairman of the 35th Annual Convention Committee; Paul R. Marshall, Chairman of the Building Industry Banquet Committee, and Earl R. Pellerin, Chairman of the 1949 Architects Show Committee. The Convention proper cost the Society about \$90, which will be more than absorbed by a small profit on the Banquet. The Show cost about \$700, after deducting contributions, but it is believed that some part of this may be recovered. At any rate, it was considered well worth while for the Society. Earl Pellerin and his Committee did a fine job and much favorable publicity resulted.

John C. Thornton made an interim report for the Administrative Committee, Ralph Hammett reported on Education and Research, and Roger Allen on Public and Professional Relations.

The Special Committee on arrangements for the Mid-Summer Conference at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island presented an encouraging report, indicating that the 1949 meeting will be by far the best yet. The dates are set for August 4-7. The Conference proper will be on Friday and Saturday, August 5 and 6, with Thursday for arrival and Sunday for departure. Some of the best speakers possible are being engaged. The Committee consists of Messrs. Langius, Kressbach, Frantz and Williams.

For the Committee on Education and Research, Leo Bauer reported on a proposed pamphlet outlining the architect's services, fees, etc. such as have been issued by a number of other chapters and state societies. This will probably be released some time this year. Mr. Bauer also reported on some matters pertaining to the State Fire Marshal's Office, which vitally affect the architectural profession in this state.

Messrs. Leinweber and Thornton reported on recent meetings of APELSCOR, stating that House Bill No. 114 had lost in the Senate. This bill had to do with certain proposed amendments to the State Registration Act. However, another bill known as No. 40 had been introduced previously and it is believed that this bill will accomplish the objectives of the Society. This bill seems to have a good chance of passing, as practically all groups interested are agreed upon it.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in Flint on May 4, as guests of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A. I. A. It is believed that this will be the first time that the Society has ever held a meeting in that city. It is expected that Members of the Saginaw Valley Chapter will hold a dinner meeting jointly with the Board on that evening.

### Meeting of the Detroit Chapter THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Rackham Memorial Building, 100 Farnsworth  
Ave., Detroit

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1949

Board Meeting, 4:00 P. M.; Dinner, 6:30;  
Program, 8:00

SUBJECT: "Acoustical Aspects of Architecture"

SPEAKER: Mr. Richard H. Bolt, Director of the  
Acoustical Laboratory, Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology

\* \* \*

Mr. H. Bolt, one of the nation's outstanding authorities on the subject, will tell us of the kinds of acoustic problems which exist in different types of buildings, and of the comparative merits of the various methods for handling them. He will show us how the solutions to acoustic problems can be integrated with the design and construction of buildings, and why the fundamental acoustical needs should be kept in mind at all stages in the development of an architectural project. He will use slides to illustrate his talk.

There are many recent developments in the technic of sound-conditioning buildings with which few architects are familiar enough. Very often architects confuse the entirely independent problems of noise reduction, sound strengthening and the prevention of sound transmission. These problems are becoming especially important with the wider use of lighter and more flexible construction methods. Mr. Bolt's talk will include a discussion of all these problems.

There will be ample time allowed after Mr. Bolt's talk for a discussion of the subject in which members may pose questions.



## BERY, KNAPP APPOINTED

Mayor Gerald P. Kent, the new 28-year-old Mayor of Oak Park, Michigan announced the appointment of two members of the Michigan Society of Architects, George J. Bery, AIA, and



KNAPP



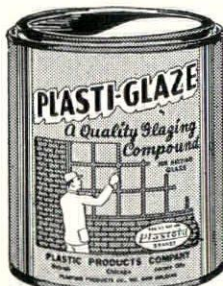
BERY

Eliud John Knapp, AIA, to his City's Planning Commission.

Oak Park has the largest undeveloped tract of land in any city in Southern Oakland County. Said Mayor Kent regarding the appointment of Bery and Knapp, "We aim to become the most desirable northern neighbor of Detroit and the most desirable neighbor of any city in Southern Oakland County. We are calling upon the Architectural profession to help us, through sound planning, to achieve our aim of proper balance of residential areas, carefully zoned light industrial areas, and well located parks and schools."

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## PRODUCERS' COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

**Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company Hosts Architects are invited**

PLACE: The Wardell Sheraton.  
 TIME: Monday, May 9, Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00, Programs 8:00.

SPEAKER: Mr. Elmer A. Lundberg, A. I. A., Director, Architectural Design Department, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

SUBJECT: "Store Design as a Sales Aid."

This is another in the Producers' Council series of informative meetings that have proved so delightful and valuable to architects.

Mr. Lundberg will feature in his talk the important part that correct store design plays in stimulating sales. He will outline the origin and development of the modern "open-Front" store design and show how it attracts customers and builds business. He will reveal some of the extensive research and development back of the new and functional glass products featuring current store building and remodeling.

As a leader in the field of store design, Mr. Lundberg created the twelve model stores included in the Pittsburgh's "Store Modernization Caravan." Representing the very latest in both design and selling features, these models have been acclaimed nationally by architectural, business and other groups.

An exponent of making America's "Main Streets" more attractive, Mr. Lundberg has cooperated with many community groups in planning block-long modernization programs. He is also responsible for the "Design of the Month" Architectural Service.

In addition to Mr. Lundberg, the program will include Mr. Horace McCaffrey, Color Consultant, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, who will reveal how color can actually be put to work in our daily lives, in homes, offices, stores and other buildings. In his talk, Mr. McCaffrey will show how color authorities, in cooperation with architects and designers, have developed a method of use to help reduce accidents, raise moral and generally improve conditions in all types of buildings. He will also outline some of the more recent developments in paints and protective finishes, and will include a presentation of the new Fume-Proof Outside Paint.

Architects are invited to attend.

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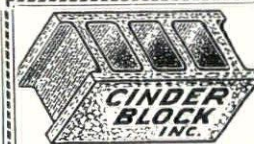
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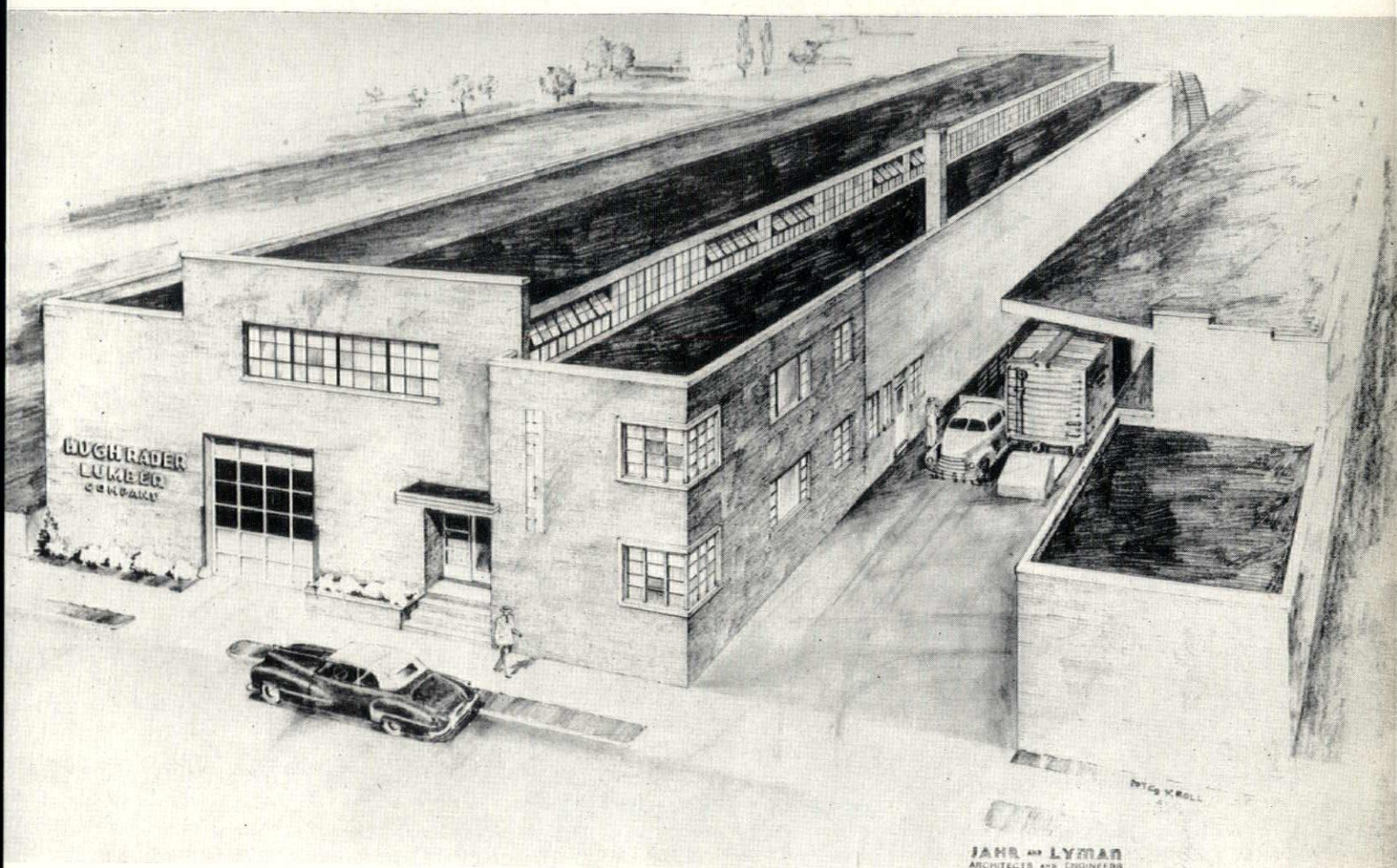
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By ROBERT H. LYMAN, Structural Engineer

This recently completed modern lumber yard and office building which provides heated storage bins for more than one and one-half million board feet of kiln-dried hardwoods and pattern lumber has been labeled "Michigan's most modern lumber yard" by those in the industry.

The front is of face brick and cut-stone trim and the interior finish is a

practical display of the finest hardwoods consisting of solid paneling to the ceiling throughout. The reception room and general office are done in natural red birch. One executive office is done in American black walnut and the other is in Honduras mahogany. There are also a built in vault and toilets on the main floor. Connected by a counter window and door to the gen-

eral office is a driver's lobby behind which are separate toilets and showers and the boiler room.

Then, as one takes the open stairway to the second floor, which is a continuation of the general office paneling, one finds at the top of the steps a spacious conference and directors' room that is not only paneled in Appalachian white oak, but also has an inlaid parquet floor of this same most serviceable and beautiful wood. Adjoining rooms include a wardrobe, washroom and shower, but the focal point of interest in the main room of this suite is a beautiful color photo-mural of a woodland scene. This photo-mural lifts up to reveal a complete kitchenette and bar.

In the warehouse portion of the building, which has masonry walls, all of the beams, columns, trusses and purlins are west coast pre-fabricated structural grade fir with Teco connectors. The roof is 2" fir with insulation and







tar and gravel. The entire floor is black topped as are the outside drives and parking areas.

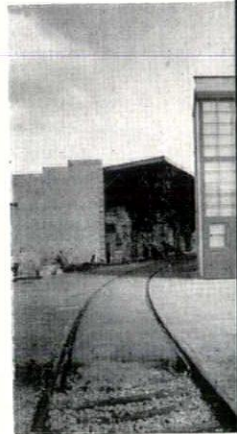
The heat is furnished by a hot water package boiler with unit heaters in the warehouse. An air-conditioning unit provides forced warm air, in the winter and cool air in the summer.

There is a two track railroad span with twenty-five car capacity on the property. One of these tracks runs the full length of the building inside and the other runs outside where there is additional shed storage for one million feet of air-dried lumber. This shed is of masonry construction with a structural steel cantilevered roof that keeps loading and unloading operations dry.

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## CHAMBERLIN CO. HOSTS AT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Producers' Council, Inc., Michigan Chapter, assigned its April meeting to Chamberlin Company of America, on April 12, at the Wardell Sheraton. The Company entertained some fifty architects and others interested with cocktails and dinner, following which a most interesting and informative program was presented.

William E. Ogden, Council President, presided and opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the guests. He outlined, for those unfamiliar, the aims and purposes of the Council, and turned the meeting over to Mr. Frank Sansom, General Sales Manager of the Chamberlin Company. Mr. Sansom paid tribute to Mr. Ogden and the Program Committee for April for completing arrangements so successfully on such short notice. He stated that a joint

committee of architects and producers had discussed the kind of programs that the architects wanted, saying that this was the Chamberlin Company's interpretation of the architects' suggestions.

Mr. Sansom stated that the Chamberlin Company is now in its fifty-second year. Up to 1945 it was known as the Chamberlin Metal Weatherstrip Company. In 1945 the name was changed to Chamberlin Company of America.

The company manufactures most of the products it handles, sells all of them, including fireplace screens, screens for doors and windows, porch screens, combination screens and storm sash, metal weatherstrips, insulation, calking, and screens for psychiatric institutions and extruded aluminum windows. The last mentioned represent a new development to take the place of iron bars formerly used for detention purposes.

Chamberlin Company of America operates under a factory branch system from coast to coast. The home office is in Detroit. Factories are in Detroit, Chicago, Oakland, Calif.; Peru, Ill., Ironton, Ohio; Ridley Park, Pa., and Westhaven, Conn. Each job is custom-built, estimates are prepared and prices submitted. As they have found that installation is one of the most important features, this is assumed by the company. Such items as fireplace screens are handled by department stores, the others by factory branches.

Mr. Barney Bernard, Detroit Branch Manager, talked on some of the company's products, such as screens and storm sash, while Mr. E. B. Ingersoll discussed the psychiatric screens.

Mr. Bernard presented Mr. F. W. (Ted) Morse, Vice-President; Robert H. Breitenbach, in charge of Advertising and Sales Promotion, and A m b y Kearney, Detroit office salesman, who calls on architects.

Sound slides entitled "Let's Talk About the Weather" were shown, illustrating how heat leaks from a building in winter and the sun's rays penetrate in summer, and what can be done about it. There is no advertising in the pictures, the name of Chamberlin appearing only in the first and last frames.

Following the program, guests were privileged to inspect the interesting and instructive exhibits and demonstrations provided. Altogether, the entire program was of the highest type.

## BULLETIN:

I am just in receipt of your M. S. A. 35th Annual Convention Number of the Weekly Bulletin and let me congratulate you on a fine publication, and thank you for the pages devoted to my London office.

I trust this finds you well and I am sure you will be pleased to know that we are busier over here than ever, in fact our organization has grown to a size that it is becoming frightening.

I had a card from Robert Frantz from Mexico the other day, and was gratified to have him remember me.

I am sure that your Convention was a great success and will be interested to read about it.

Give my kindest regards to any mutual friends. Wishing you every success, I remain sincerely and cordially yours.—C. Howard Crane, 7 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, England.

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### A BIDDING PROCEDURE

*A Letter from Walter L. Couse*

Confirming my phone conversation of recent date in which I took exception to your article in the Michigan Society of Architects Weekly Bulletin of March 22nd. in which you stated, with reference to the new national joint committee of the American Institute of Architects and the Associated General Contractors, "... pointing out that the committee prepared a new document on bidding practices, did an excellent job, which should be of inestimable value in putting bidding on a more uniform and business-like basis."

In making this statement you indicated that it came from Mr. Douglas William Orr who is the immediate past president of the A.I.A. and that he made such a reference or statement at the 30th. Anniversary Convention of the Associated General Contractors of America at the Waldorf Astoria in New York recently. I am sure that Mr. Orr must have been misquoted because he knows better, and I am writing to you so that you will be straight on this matter, as well as for any future reference to the activities of this joint A.I.A.-A.G.C. committee.

The new document known as "A Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure" was not developed by this committee but was developed by a special committee appointed for the purpose of preparing this guide, the members of which are as follows:

#### For the A. G. C.

Walter L. Couse, Co-Chairman  
Tom Gilbane  
J. A. McNeil,  
James E. Esch  
R. J. Miller  
P. M. McDougall  
John H. Sellen

#### For the A.I.A.

William Stanley Parker,  
Co-Chairman  
George Bain Cummings  
Howard Dwight Smith

This committee met at different times in connection with the development of this guide, culminating in a final meeting in New York City in January of 1948, at which time the final wordings were cleared and authority given to both groups to submit it to their respective associations for ratification. This was done by the contractors at their annual convention at Dallas, Texas in February, 1948 and was done by the architects earlier that same year.

After this ratification it was published by the contractors in booklet form and has been distributed throughout

the country and is now in its fourth printing, there having been better than 10,000 copies printed and distributed to date, with enough requests in to necessitate another printing. It has been almost universally accepted for the purpose intended, that is, to assist architects, owners, contractors and all others involved or interested in developing the proper methods of requesting of bids so that the owners' interests are protected, the architects' designs, specifications and ideals are protected as well as the interests of the contractor so that fair bids can be obtained with all of the three interests involved being dealt with on a businesslike and uniform basis.

The joint A.I.A.-A.G.C. committee was not formed until after the Dallas meeting of the A. G. C., and our first meeting of that joint committee was not held until June, 1948 in the architects' Octagon Building in Washington, D. C. The members of this committee are:

#### For the A. G. C.

Walter L. Couse, Co-Chairman  
A. L. Atherton  
William Muirhead

#### For the A. I. A.

James R. Edmunds, Jr.,  
Co-Chairman  
Edward G. Conrad  
Harry B. Tour  
Earl T. Heitschmidt

This committee is working on joint problems of the construction industry as they affect both the architects and the contractors, and the work of this committee is showing an ever-increasing importance for the future of both groups in that unquestionably it will create greater cooperation between the architects and the contractors toward solving the many irritating problems that have come up over the years (and when I say irritating I mean that they have been just as much of a bother to the architects as to the contractors).

Through the efforts of this committee we are finding that these problems can be worked out on a basis that is equitable to both and with a saving of money to the client. That is the purpose of this latter committee, and I can assure you that in the meetings that we have had to date every discussion has been with this one idea in mind and all personalities have been left out. The architects have been just as quick to recognize weak points in some of the members in their organization as we contractors on the committee have been willing to accept and recognize weak points of our own association members.

The work of this committee has turned out so well between these two groups that a similar committee has been appointed by the A. G. C. and the A. S. C. E. on a national basis and this latter committee is now functioning.

All in all, we believe that this new collaboration between these associations toward the common interest by all in

their owner-client is going to be a very definite step toward strengthening the construction industry as a whole.

Therefore, I have written this letter in order that you might realize the differing efforts of the two committees so that Mr. Parker and the members of his committee as well as Mr. Edmunds and the members of his committee might each receive their proper credit, because both groupings, that is both co-committees, are continuing to work very harmoniously, and to the credit of both associations.

I trust that you will take this note in the light of criticism but in making those who read your article aware of whom they should contact for information as well as the passing on of subjects that affect each of the two committees.

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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 26, 1949

No. 17

# THE ARCHITECT AND THE CONTRACTOR

*A Talk by Charles B. McGrew, A.I.A., before the Thirty-Fifth Annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects, in Detroit, Michigan, March 3, 1949*

My part of this discussion has been divided into two parts—one on "Fairness to Contractors" and the other on "Non-compliance with the Registration Law." I have also been asked to discuss several debatable questions on which your views are requested.

We are unfair when we ask contractors to bid on a job which we should know is going to cost more than the available funds. A contractor told me he had spent \$900 bidding a certain job and that the cost to sub-contractors was approximately \$1,600, so that the total cost of the one bid which he submitted was approximately \$2,500.

This was only one of several bids. He said that the money available, the amount of which he later learned, was definitely inadequate. It is absolutely unfair to treat a bidder that way; it injures the architect individually and the profession as a whole, and it does nothing for the owner. This contractor correctly held the architect responsible for this waste of his assets, and it could be nobody else's fault. It is our responsibility to be very certain that there is sufficient money available to let a contract of some sort before we ask for proposals.

It is very important that we (1) Furnish enough plans and specifications for estimates, (2) Allow adequate time for estimates, (3) Set the date and hour for receiving bids and (4) Publish a list of bidders. Failure to do so is unfair to both contractor and owner. It is our responsibility to see that the best bidding conditions prevail on every job in order that owners may obtain the maximum advantage and that the man who is able to turn in the low bid gets the award. I know of a job which was bid two years ago, when prices were less than at present, and which is now being rebid. Bidders say that they expect to beat the 1947 bid for the sole reason that a very wide distribution of sub-bids is now possible. We must give proper and adequate time for figuring. The list of bidders

should be published to aid in the distribution of sub-bids.

Now for those several additional special questions previously mentioned:

(a) Do we have selected (or invited) lists of bidders on private work or do we allow anyone to figure on it? Each individual case may be different. The owner may have ideas which we must accept. The best practice on private work, I think, is to pick several good bidders who are known to be co-operative with architects.

Incidentally, too many contractors are now "selling" completed buildings, architectural and engineering services included. This is true not only in Detroit but nationally. The Institute should recognize this danger and do something about it. I have heard of two or three instances where contractors, after receiving an award, have gone over the architect's head to the owner with a list of changes, and I have grave doubts if the owner would be given 25% of any savings resulting from such a deal.

This practice has several ramifications. For instance, sometimes architects may work with the contractor. When financing aid is necessary, it requires plans and a real firm bid. In order to put such a job across, the architect and the contractor sometimes cooperate on the details of financing and work out a way by which the owner can handle it. If the architect gets his full fee and is not chiseling in that

### Meeting of the Detroit Chapter THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Rackham Memorial Building, 100 Farnsworth  
Ave., Detroit

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1949

Board Meeting, 4:00 P. M.; Dinner, 6:30;  
Program, 8:00

SUBJECT: "Acoustical Aspects of Architecture"  
SPEAKER: Mr. Richard H. Bolt, Director of the  
Acoustical Laboratory, Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology

respect, there appears to be little to do about it.

I know a Detroit architect who started in business doing houses during the depression. He found he could not control his general contractors, who were invariably making changes to bail themselves out of financial troubles. After some unpleasant experiences, he decided to do the building himself. He charged a fixed fee of 15% and sublet everything. He could control subs where he could not do anything with generals. On that foundation he built up a very nice practice, although he has long since gone out of the contracting business. Maybe we will have to do something like that on the bigger jobs if we are to successfully combat these complete-service outfits.

(b) Are the materials installed before they are tried and proven?

When anyone talks about using prov-



en materials, I think of an experience about twenty years ago when I was handling a small school for a local architect. A salesman came into the office with a sample of a floor which was beautiful, quiet and resilient. An installation had been made near Kalamazoo, so I went out there one weekend and looked at it. It certainly seemed to be a perfect job, so we put it in our building. The school board was greatly pleased with it. About one and one-half years later the owners telephoned that this floor was cracking and that it sounded hollow when anyone walked on it. The next week I went back to Kalamazoo to see how the floor out there was holding up. The janitor told me that they had shoveled it out and installed linoleum within a year. We had to do the same. My employer gave me a fatherly bit of advice—never put in a material that does not have at least

a five-year experience record, and never gamble with the client's money. I have since followed this advice carefully.

The next two questions are so closely related that I believe they may well be considered together:—

(c) Do architects insist upon compliance with the contract, or do they take what the contractors may determine as best?

(d) When contractors do not cooperate with architects or respect their ability and responsibility, what measures do we undertake to correct the situation?

We get back to the problem of the contractor who always gives a thousand reasons why he cannot do the work as planned and specified—can't get the materials, etc., etc. It is hard to know just what to do in many of these cases. You have to know your contractor. He may be doing it to be helpful, or he may be trying to take over the job. A good practice regarding substitutions is followed by the Federal Government. When lists or materials and subcontractors are once approved, the Government will not accept a change unless the approved supplier or subcontractor gives it his blessing in writing. That prevents chiseling, which is too frequently the reason for substitutions.

I am particularly anxious to have someone talk about contractors in the architectural business and what we are going to do about it, if anything. It is not going to get any better as business becomes more competitive. I feel that many of you have had experiences with these fellows and also with incorrigible contractors, and I would like to hear you talk.

#### NON-COMPLIANCE WITH REGISTRATION LAW

There are two divisions under this heading: (1) We should always use our seals and those of our engineering consultants on drawings submitted to the Department of Building and Safety Engineering. Almost every firm rushes plans over without their seal, and I know of several occasions where someone has had to be sent over to put the seals on. We should see that they are affixed on plans before submission and save everyone a lot of inconvenience; (2) We hear innumerable stories about the practice of affixing seals to drawings prepared by others but nothing definite enough to aid in eradicating it. We could do plenty to offenders if we could obtain positive proof. If such proof were submitted to the Practice Committee promptly and fully, something could be done about it. If you want this evil corrected, you'll have to help.

**EDWARD X. TUTTLE, AIA**, has gone to the Orient and Europe to survey industrial relations and reconstruction, for Giffels and Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti, Associated Engineers and Architects.

Tuttle, formerly of Battle Creek, has for some years been in charge of the G. & V. Eastern Division of 500 Fifth Avenue, New York City. He is also Director of the firm's foreign operations. He will visit Tokyo, Taiwan, Calcutta, Cairo, Israel, Istanbul, Rome, Torino. Paris and London.

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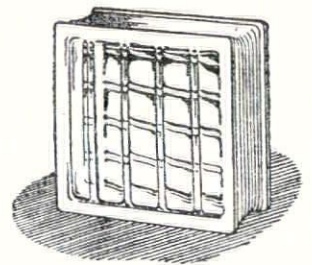
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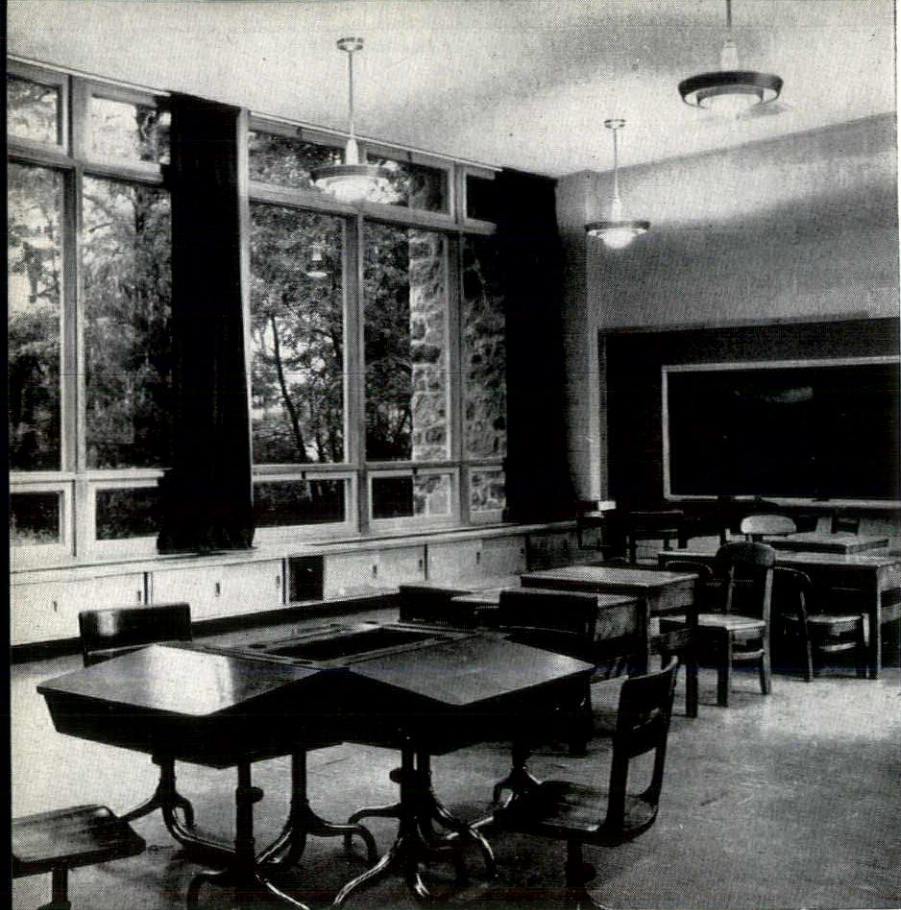
## SCHOOL DESIGN WINS 'AWARD OF MERIT' ARCHITECTS' 81st ANNUAL CONVENTION

By THOMAS

The architectural firm of O'Dell, Hewlett & Luckenbach feels deeply honored in winning an Award of Merit for the design of its Wing Lake School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

The award was one of seven given nationally in the first Honor Award program of the American Institute of Architects at its 81st Annual Convention in Houston, Texas, March 15th.

This school, which was the only award obtained by Michigan architects, is an addition to a stone school house built in 1886. The problem was to harmonize contemporary facilities for a lower elementary school with the existing colonial building. This old field stone schoolhouse and the new stone addition is on a large site among fine old trees located on West Maple at Wing Lake Road. The Kindergarten room is a pleasant room with bi-lateral



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# SCHOOL

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ETT, A.I.A.

lighting. The south wall is entirely of glass with low window sills completely designed in scale for kindergarten children. The room has been decorated as home-like as possible in light, pastel colors with a green chalkboard and natural birch furniture. The daylight is controlled by traverse drapery with well distributed artificial light of thirty foot candles. The heating and toilet facilities provide for the future expansion of four more class rooms to keep pace with the growing community.

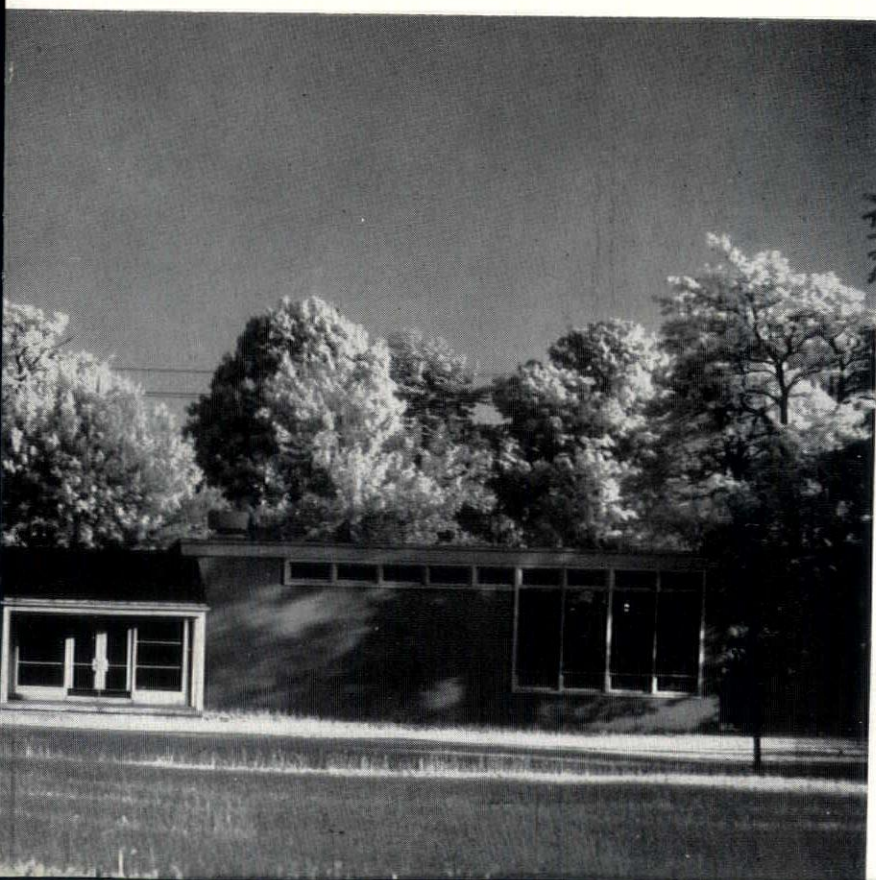
We feel that the high honor given us by the American Institute of Architects for the Wing Lake School design must necessarily include the excellent job carried out by the general contractor, the Barton-Marlow Co., of Detroit, and the fine work of the sub-contractors and material suppliers whose diligent efforts helped win this meritorious award.



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## PRODUCERS' COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

### Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company Hosts Architects are invited

PLACE: Wardell Sheraton.

TIME: Monday, May 9, Cocktails at 6:00 p.m., Dinner 7:00, Program 8:00.

SPEAKER: Mr. Ernest A. Lundberg, A.I.A., Director, Architectural Design Department, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company

SUBJECT: "Store Design as a Sales Aid."

(See Last Week's Bulletin for further Details)

Elmer A. Lundberg, member American Institute of Architects and nationally famous store design authority, was born in Greensburg, Pa., in 1909. He is a graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology, (1932, Bachelor of Architecture Degree).



In 1934, Mr. Lundberg joined the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company as an assistant store front designer. In this capacity he was instrumental in helping develop the overall improvements in modern store design through design of special and improved glass and metal store front products.

In January, 1945, Mr. Lundberg was appointed to his present position of Director of Architectural Design. One of his most recent contribution to improving the design and sales effectiveness of stores and commercial establish-

ments, are the twelve model stores in Pittsburgh's "Store Modernization Caravan."

These twelve models, built to one-eighth scale are complete in all details. They epitomize the ultimate in contemporary store design both interior and exterior. These models are being exhibited throughout the nation.

Long an exponent of making America's "Main Streets" more attractive, Mr. Lundberg has authored many magazine articles on the subject and has appeared before many national planning, design and architectural groups. He has also assisted in planning the modernization of entire blocks of business sections in several cities.

Mr. Lundberg is a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.

## STATE BOARD ELECTS

The State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Land Surveyors announce the election of officers for 1949: Mr. James H. Foote of Jackson, chairman, and Mr. Robert B. Frantz of Saginaw, vice-chairman and secretary. The Board also announced the appointment of Mr. Henry G. Groehn of Detroit as Executive Secretary of the State Board. Mr. Groehn, an attorney, is a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County. He served three and one-half years as a Lieutenant Commander in World War II, in the U.S. Navy.

The other members of the State Board are: Wilfrid C. Polkinghorne, Houghton; Wells I. Bennett, Ann Arbor; Andrew R. Morison, Detroit; Clyde R. Paton, Birmingham; and Henry T. McGaughan of Pontiac.

The State Board has inaugurated a more rigid enforcement policy, and all violations of the State Registration Act will be carefully investigated and the violators prosecuted.

The next State Board examinations for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Land Surveyors will be held June 16, 17, and 18, at Detroit and Houghton.



## LETTER TO ART ZIMMERMANN

I am a young man, married, white, and twenty eight, graduating with a degree in Architecture in June from Catholic University with high scholastic standing, and ready to lend enthusiastic and able assistance to a progressive architectural firm.

In Washington, D. C. I contacted Mr. Rankin at The American Institute of Architects, and he advised me to write to you in regard to employment in your area.

I have had two years experience working with registered Architects, consisting of working drawings, and details done on large office buildings, warehouse, parking garage, apartment and small home construction. I am familiar with store front design and construction, and have had considerable experience in measuring and drawing existing buildings for alterations. My training has been along the contemporary trend in architecture, and I am capable of designing, preparing working drawings and details; I am familiar with office routine.

If you will please send me the names of, or bring this letter to the attention of interested parties, I will greatly appreciate it. I will be pleased to furnish references, samples of work done, and to arrange for an interview at an early date. Yours truly, C. D. Patton, 6506 Wells Parkway, Riverdale, Md.

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## A WINDOW IS A WINDOW IS A WINDOW

From The Charette

It is the architect's responsibility to inquire into the design of every element that goes into a house. Let's, as for instance, examine the ordinary window, that wonderful invention that allows us to see right through a wall. Unfortunately, though we want to look out, it is difficult to keep others from looking in at times. This can be embarrassing. So we put up shades which we keep at half mast.

Of course we might have made the window that much smaller in the first place, but that would cut down the amount of ventilation, which is another function of a window. The ventilation makes the shade flap in the breeze anyway, so we open the window from the bottom if it is that kind of a window, but that is not very effective because it throws the draft directly on us—and besides the hot air we wish to exhaust is at the top of the room.

In the daytime, of course, we keep the window closed unless it faces away from the sun. We don't keep it closed because we want to, but because the sun would make the room too hot and would fade the rugs and upholstery. So we close the drapes, which were invented to dress a window, and to nullify its original purpose.

Now when the drapes are pulled shut, it would do little good to open the window because the zephyrs couldn't get in and a stiff wind would blow the drapes, knocking the Talisman's in their vase off the drum table, which has been placed in front of the window not to hinder enjoyment of the window, but for the fatalistic reason that the window couldn't be enjoyed anyway.

The window is further obliterated

by an accessory known as a screen which keeps bugs out and father busy. It spoils the appearance of the window from the outside and of the landscape from the inside—and father's temper.

One window, furthermore, is not sufficient for one opening, if indeed it may be called an opening. In the wintertime another window is placed in the same opening. This, too, spoils the appearance from the outside as well as father's good nature. Yet this is the type of window used in houses built today—even by architects.

We could examine many other elements of today's houses and arrive at the same conclusion of muddled habit. It is time then to analyze the functions of a house and to design for true comfort and usefulness.

—L. Morgan Yost

## ON LAND PLANNING BOARD

Philip M. Klutznick, president of American Community Builders, Inc., has been named to the advisory board of the Institute for Urban Land Use and Housing Studies at Columbia University, it is announced by Director Ernest M. Fisher.

Mr. Klutznick, who was formerly commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Authority, is currently a member of the Chicago law firm of Klutznick, Beber and Miller and of the Omaha law firm of Beber, Klutznick, Beber and Kaplan. He is vice-president and a member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Consumers Oil Company, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a member of the board of the Omaha Fixture and Supply Co.

He served at various times as assistant administrator of the National Housing Authority in charge of war housing operations; regional representative of the NHA; assistant administrator in charge of the home use service of the NHA; regional coordinator for the Division of Defense Housing; and general counsel of the Omaha Housing Authority.

Mr. Klutznick attended the Universities of Kansas and Nebraska, and received his bachelor of laws degree from Creighton University, Omaha, in 1929.

## D.S.P. ELECTS

Directors of Detroit Steel Products Company, following an official meeting, March 15, announced the following new officers:

H. F. Wardwell, former president of the Company, was advanced to chairman of the board, and W. C. Owen, former executive vice president, was named president of the Company. William Gillett and E. C. Hodges were elected vice presidents.

Officers continuing in their positions are H. D. Palmer, vice president; R. W. Weed, vice president; R. S. Van Cleve, vice president; E. R. Ailes, secretary-treasurer; H. A. Pope, assistant secretary, and C. G. Bunting, assistant treasurer.

## WOULD MAINTAIN QUALITY

In the construction industry's nationwide effort to lower the cost of building homes, major emphasis should be placed on the use of cost-reducing techniques rather than on methods which unduly reduce the size, liveability, and quality of the housing offered to the public, James M. Ashley, president of the Producers' Council, has stated.

"If, in its attempt to construct a larger number of homes that can be sold at a lower price, the industry too greatly sacrifices space and quality of construction, it will face the charge that it is building future slums and lowering the nation's housing standards," Mr. Ashley said.

"No one disputes the fact that there is a need for more homes which can be sold at lower prices than the average paid during the last two years. But the low-cost houses which are built must meet certain minimum standards if they are to represent a valuable addition to the housing supply.

"In some instances, there has been a tendency to cut the area of new homes down to a disturbing extent. There also is a tendency to reduce the size of lots to a point of overcrowding.

"The future cost of repairing and maintaining new homes also must be given full consideration. It is no service to the home buying public to offer them homes which will require excessive repair bills for years to come, merely because of a desire to hold down the original cost.

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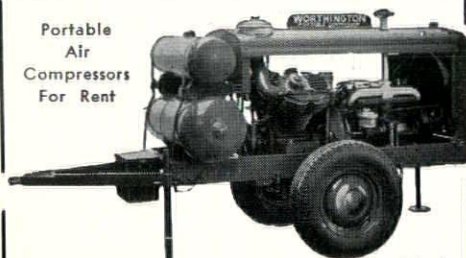
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## Builders & Traders

Edited by

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### "WITHIN SIXTY DAYS"

In our column in the April 5th issue we discussed the "fifteen-day notice" required by Michigan's Lien Law. In the last paragraph the language should have read "... and the lien does not have to be filed until before the sixtieth day after you furnish the last labor or materials." Instead it read "sixteenth" which was wrong.

We hope every reader read that column in the April 5th issue because it presents a condition which should receive study by every thoughtful man in the construction industry. It is extremely doubtful if a bill to correct the evils of the "fifteen-day notice" will be introduced into this session. And let it be said that spadework, by all means, should be done from here on in to get some adjustment in the next session of the legislature. That spadework was not possible before the attempt at legislation in this session because the idea of such attempt was born at 3:32 p.m., February 6, 1949. The idea was born at that time, which was pretty late, as you will all agree. The idea appeared in type to the industry in a membership bulletin published by the Builders' and Traders' Exchange on February 7, 1949. So no one of the group in the industry who agreed that something should be done should be chagrined because this session almost certainly will not produce the result.

One question in the mind of the editor of this column is how in heck did that "fifteen day notice" amendment get passed into law in 1929 in the way it has been incorporated into the lien law.

Then there is the matter of passive acceptance of this amendment ever since it was enacted twenty long years ago. That is something to be explained to some future legislature. Probably the flash answer is that American businessmen rely more upon their own initiative than on legal technicalities.

The readers of this column represent possibly all the classifications of the construction industry. For practically any classification there is an association. The Michigan Lien Law as it now stands with the "fifteen-day notice" requirement written into it, should be a matter for study on the part of every association in the industry.

The editor of this column will be glad to hear from you. We want to assemble reactions and we want to assemble experiences under the law as it is now. You can address your letters directly to the BUILDERS AND TRADERS EXCHANGE, 439 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit.

## ALUMINUM INTERIOR TRIM

Altrico Alloy Trim is a new product just announced by Alloy Trim, Inc. The factory is at 217 West Seven Mile Road in Detroit.

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